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The Philatelic News

A FREE MONTHLY JOURNAL ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO STAMPS.

Edited and Published by ALBERT E. COUPE.

No. 1. Vol. 1.

JANUARY, 1909.

GRATIS AND POST FREE.

Chatty Notes.

BY THE EDITOR.

I do not intend to bore my readers with an exhaustive introduction, but I feel that I must open my remarks with many thanks to those philatelists who have, to quote their own words, wished me every success in my venture. To make this journal successful without any subscription whatever, I must seek support almost exclusively from the philatelic trade for advertisements, and to readers for replying to advertisements and mentioning "The Philatelic News" when doing so.

I shall be greatly obliged to readers, at home and abroad, who will send me chatty letters relating to stamp matters, also cuttings from newspapers, &c. These should be accompanied by the name and the date of the paper from which they are taken.

This journal is intended to go to every philatelist in the United Kingdom in due course, but, should any stamp collector not receive a copy each month, he should at once send a postcard to the publisher, who will send him a copy regularly.

I would also be glad to hear of any fraud that may be perpetrated by unscrupulous stamp collectors or dealers on the readers of "The Philatelic News" or their friends, if I get proof of this I shall do my utmost to expose them in these columns.

I notice, with genuine regret, that one of our most able philatelic journalists and editor of a very well-known stamp weekly, in the most readable part of his journal, is diverting his notes from the paths of philately to such an extent, that, in a recent issue, a column and a half is devoted to the prices realised at auction of coins and medals. As an old reader of this high-class journal, I cannot say how much I was disappointed to find most of one page filled with matter of no earthly interest to the majority of philatelists.

I am told that, when Congress meets again, there will be an investigation into the abuse of the franking system for letters by members of the Congress, and the transmission through the mails of Departmental matter. The United States of America Post Office Department complains that the franking system cost that country the enormous sum of £8,509,000, and that this was largely responsible for the deficit in the post office accounts.

An exhibition of paper making will be held by the Junior Philatelic Society, in Clifford's Inn Hall, Fleet Street, London, E.C., on January 8th and 9th. On Friday, Jan. 8th, the exhibition will be opened from 12-30 to 9-30 p.m., and Saturday, January 9th, from 10-30 to 6-30 p.m.

Collectors in the provinces, who were prevented from visiting the Exhibition of Stamps of the British Empire, held last March, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, ought to look forward with great pleasure to the Exhibition and Philatelic Congress, that will be held at Hulme Town Hall, Manchester. The date is fixed for 18th, 19th, and 20th of February next. Hulme Town Hall is within easy access from all parts of the city. The exhibits will include Foreign as well as Colonial stamps. It will be open on Thursday at 3-30 p.m.; on Friday, 10-30 a.m.; on Saturday at 10-30 a.m.; and close at 10 p.m. each day.

Some time ago, the principal of a boarding school wrote to the editor of "Truth" complaining that a boy who boarded at his school received an approval sheet of stamps from a small firm of stamp dealers (who trade only with approval sheets through "Free Gifts"). The principal did not allow his pupils to receive

approval sheets so he detained the sheet, and wrote to the dealers in question asking them to come for their stamps if they wanted them. Later, the young collector received a letter from a debt collecting firm, in London, stating that if the boy did not remit the amount of the value of the sheet (which I think was priced at a few shillings) immediate steps would be taken against him. A case like this, published in a non-philatelic journal, does a great deal of harm to the welfare of our hobby.

Another value of the new United States series has made its appearance. This is the 1 c., which is issued in similar type to the 2 c., with portrait of Franklin as centre-piece. The 2 c. value is said to have been withdrawn because it did not conform with the Postal Union regulation, "that the value of every stamp must be expressed in figures," but the new value does not conform with this regulation either.



The Postage Stamps of Hong-Kong.

By ALBERT E. COUPE.

THE Representative Colony of Hong Kong consists of an island with Kowloon, a small strip of territory on the mainland. The island itself is situated at the mouth of Canton River, off the coast of Kwang Tung, China, and is about 11 miles long and from two to five miles wide, and has a total area of about 30 square miles. The whole colony has an area of 406 square miles, and a population of 420,724.

Before Hong Kong issued its own postage stamps, the then current British stamps were used in Hong Kong, these can only be recognised by their numbered cancellation. This, I believe, consisted of "B 62," contained in a Black oval.

1862. The first issue of this colony's own postage stamps took place in 1862. These were designed and engraved by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., Ltd., and were printed by them on unwatermarked paper. The design consisted of a diademed head of Queen Victoria, with profile to left, encased in a double lined frame in which appears the name of the colony at the head and the value at the foot. At the left hand side are Chinese characters meaning "Fragrant Harbour," which is the native name for Hong Kong, and on the left are other characters signifying "Post Office" and denoting value.



1862

No Wmk.



Perf. 14.

	Unused.	Used
2 cents, brown	6 0	4 0
8 cents, yellow	17 6	4 0
12 cents, blue	—	3 6
18 cents, lilac	12 6	3 6
24 cents, green	25 0	4 6
48 cents, rose	50 0	10 0
96 cents, deep grey	35 0	16 0

1863-71. Seven values. Designs as before but printed upon paper watermarked Crown C.C.

and perforated 14. A few of the 4 cents stamps were perforated 12½.



1863-71 Wmk. Crown C.C. Perf 14.

	Unused.	Used
2 cents, deep brown	3 0	1 3
4 cents, slate	2 0	0 9
6 cents, lilac	4 6	1 6
6 cents, pale mauve	8 0	1 9
8 cents, orange	13 6	0 9
12 cents, pale blue	7 0	—
12 cents, blue	0 8	0 7
18 cents, lilac	75 0	15 0
24 cents, blue green	—	1 6
24 cents, yellow green	10 0	1 6
30 cents, vermilion	22 0	1 9
30 cents, mauve	8 0	0 3
48 cents, rose	10 0	2 6
96 cents, yellow brown	—	26 0
96 cents, grey	16 0	3 0
Variety Perf., 12½.		
4 cents, deep slate	—	20 0

1876. Owing to the fact that the authorities thought that 16 cents and 28 cents values would be more convenient than 18 cents and 30 cents then used, it was decided to surcharge the latter values with the former respectively, pending the arrival of the regular stamps of the new values from England. Later on in the same year, the regular 16 cents stamps arrived in Hong Kong and replaced the provisional of that value. Wmk. Crown C. C. Perforation 14.



1876. Wmk. Crown C. C. Perf. 14.



	Unused.	Used
16 c. on 18 c. lilac - - -	30 0	7 6
28 c. on 30 c. mauve - - -	18 6	3 6



1876. Wmk. Crown C. C. Perf. 14.

	Unused.	Used
16 cents, yellow - - -	27 6	2 6

1879-1880. Owing to a revision of the postal rates, 5 cents and 10 cents stamps became necessary. The authorities had the current 18 cent lilac and 12 cent blue, surcharged 5 cent and 10 cent respectively. Later the 16 cent and 24 cents were each overprinted 10 cents. Several of these provisionals are known with inverted surcharge.



1870-1880. Wmk. Crown C. C. Perf. 14.

	Unused.	Used
5 c. on 8 c. orange - - -	17 6	10 0
5 c. on 18 c. pale lilac - - -	8 0	4 0
10 c. on 12 c. blue - - -	14 0	1 6
10 c. on 16 c. yellow - - -	55 0	6 0
10 c. on 24 c. green - - -	12 6	4 0

Error, inverted surcharge.

5 c. on 8 c. orange - - -	—	—
10 c. on 16 c. yellow - - -	—	—

1880. In May 1880, a supply of the 2 cent stamps was received in Hong Kong, these were printed in a dull rose instead of brown as formerly used. Later in the same year, the regular 5 cents and 10 cents stamps were received together with a supply of 48 cents, printed in brown instead of rose. These were printed upon paper watermarked Crown C. C., and perforated 14.



1880. Wmk. Crown C. C. Perf. 14.

	Unused.	Used
2 cents, dull rose - - -	1 9	0 9
5 cents, ultramarine - - -	7 0	0 9
10 cents, mauve - - -	10 0	0 9
48 cents, brown - - -	25 0	6 0

1882. A further supply of the 5 cents and 10 cents stamps reached the colony in May, 1882, and a few months later the 2 cents stamps were received. All of these values were printed upon paper watermarked Crown C.A. The colour of the 2 cents stamps was dull rose, but these were shortly replaced by stamps printed in bright rose. In the following year, the colour of the 10 cents was changed from mauve to green. Several of the 2 cents stamps are known perforated 12, but the majority of this value and all the rest are perforated 14.

1882. Wmk. Crown C.A. Perf. 14.

	Unused.	Used
2 cents, dull rose - - -	12 6	—
2 cents, bright rose - - -	0 4	0 1
5 cents, ultramarine - - -	1 6	0 1
10 cents, mauve - - -	21 0	0 9
10 cents, green - - -	3 6	0 2
10 cents, blue green - - -	120 0	3 0

Variety, Perf. 12.

2 cents, dull rose. - - - — — —

1885. In June, 1885, following a revision of the postal rates, a number of the 30 cents vermilion, 48 cents brown, and 96 cents grey were printed. These were surcharged "20 cts.," "50 cents," and "one dollar," respectively, and were printed upon paper watermarked Crown C.A. and perforated 14.



1885. Wmk. Crown C.A. Perf. 14.

	Unused.	Used
20 c. on 30 c. vermilion - -	4 0	1 6
50 c. on 48 c. brown - -	8 0	3 0
\$1 on 96 c. grey - -	12 0	3 0

1891. There was a change of colour in several values during 1891. The 20 cents and \$1 provisionals were all issued in new colours, and the 10 cents stamps were printed in purple on red paper instead of green as formerly, and the 30 cents was in green instead of mauve. These were all printed upon paper watermarked Crown C.A. and perforated 14.

1891 Wmk. Crown C.A. Perf. 14.

	Unused.	Used
10 cents, purple on red paper -	0 6	0 1
20 c. on 30 c. dull green - -	3 0	—
20 c. on 30 c. grey green - -	5 6	—
30 cents, dull green - -	5 6	0 9
30 cents, grey green - -	2 0	0 3
50 c. on 48 c. violet - -	7 6	—
(a) with brown gum - -	4 0	—
\$1 on 96 c., purple on red paper	16 6	12 0

(To be continued).

The prices given are those at which the stamps may be obtained (when in stock) from Mr. D. Field, 4 and 5, The Royal Arcade, Old Bond Street, Piccadilly, London, W.

From Other Journals.

STAMP PRICES.

THE position to which commemorative issues and remainder sales have reduced face-values is clearly illumined by a recent and startling advertisement of a well-known firm in the Strand. They offer thirty stamps in mint state to a face-value of £3 8s. for a solitary shilling! Is it to be wondered at the evils we have mentioned, plus official speculation, and sometimes speculation, have engendered a feeling of uneasiness in the breasts of our more nervous brethren? It is true that just now all classes of property are rather cheapening, but philately would seem to have some permanent causes for depression. In the auction room we hear rumours of lessening competition (although it is only fair to add that the diminution is questioned by not a few regular attendants and bidders), in the Press of markings-down in the catalogues. Of course, for the collector who is a collector and not a mere speculator, this is the moment to add to his treasures. We hope that in the meantime the speculator may burn his fingers somewhat. The fewer of this fraternity there are in philately the better for the hobby.

Directly the present depression here and in the United States passes away we may expect advances. Already as the result of recent political happenings in South-Eastern Europe, the tide of attention has been directed in that quarter; Bulgaria and Crete in particular seem to be coming into great popularity, and the dealers' windows to display their issues more prominently.

On the "other side" attention is still being devoted to the older South American stamps. Chile long ago made good its claim to our attention and study, but the earlier issues of Brazil, Peru, and the Argentine are too much neglected.

There are plenty of new fields for the conquest. The collector who seeks them out now will derive all the advantages usually appertaining to the pioneer when the present scarcity of money has passed away.—R.P.J., in "The Exchange and Mart," 1/1/09.

2,900,000,000 LETTERS.

Mr. J. Henniker Heaton, writing to the "Times" advocating penny postage with Germany, and replying to questions as to the loss, says that in Great Britain and Ireland last year 2,900,000,000 letters were dealt with, and the annual increase is 100,000,000 letters. To America last year we sent only fifteen or eighteen million letters, "a mere drop in the ocean of letters dealt with in the United Kingdom itself." To Germany last year we sent 12,000,000 letters.

"Compare this with the fact that Germany dealt with 4,500,000,000 letters and England with 3,000,000,000 this year. Our foreign correspondence is so small that it is not creditable to our civilisation."—"Daily Dispatch," 31/12/08.

LETTER POSTS.

The following extract (translated from the Italian) from the "Portafoglio Maltese" of the 10th of May, 1841, shows that some attention was being drawn to postal matters in that year.

It is said that Cyrus the Persian was the first to institute a letter post in his Empire.

Augustus is said to have been the first to introduce it in Europe; but in Japan and in China it was still earlier; and the Spanish, on arriving at America, found posts in existence from Cuzco and from Lima. Augustus, however, only invented it to transmit with regularity and speed, Government despatches to the various parts of his far-spread kingdom. In the middle ages, the Pope and Charles the Great revived a postal system for the same object. Louis XI., by an ordinance dated 1464, extended it more, but it was only under Charles VIII. that the post was used for commercial and private purposes. Ferdinand and Isabella, on taking Granada, established post offices in their States, and in England posts commenced under Edward IV.; it was only towards the middle of the seventeenth century that the post was regularly administered in England and France. In May, 1630, there were created in France, postmasters and letter carriers, hereditary offices, the sale of which was the only thing to which the Government paid any attention for the next forty-two years. In 1676, all the offices of the various

departments were brought under one administration, and Louis XIV. let out the posts to Lazarus Petit for 1,200,000 francs, a price which regularly increased later, till the time of the Revolution, when it produced for the treasury 12,000,000 a year.

The English Parliament established posts in 1660, which produced 525,000 francs four years later; in 1723, 5,040,000; in 1793, 15,175,000 francs, and after that much more. The local post, that which serves the city internally, was only established at Paris in 1759, but in London it dated from 1683. At Paris horses were used by letter carriers, but in London the omnibuses carried the postmen into the suburbs. At the post offices of these two kingdoms, in less than three hours, 4,000 bags are opened containing from thirty to thirty-six thousand letters, which are at once sorted, charged, postmarked, and ready for distribution, but it is done most quickly and simply in England.—Lieut. W. R. Gatt, in "Gibbons' Stamp Weekly," 26/12/08.



The Philatelic News,

Published Monthly.

JANUARY 1909.

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A PROCLAMATION!

Made this first day of January, 1909, whereby Silas P. Walters heartily invites all active philatelists to join **The Lancashire Philatelic Exchange Club.**

(Signed) SILAS P. WALTERS,
58, Osborne Road, Blackpool, S.S.

PHILATELIC Literature.—Wanted, Parcels from British Colonies and abroad, also early English; all kinds, especially before 1880.—Victor Marsh, 389, Brixton Road, London.

PHILATELIC Literature. The whole of Moen's Stock of Publications has been purchased by Victor Marsh, 389, Brixton Road, London. Price list ready shortly.

PHILATELIC Literature.—Wanted, old Catalogues and Price Lists of any country before 1880.—Victor Marsh, 389, Brixton Road, London.

PHILATELIC Literature.—All kinds of new and old Publications, English and Foreign, suitable for stamp collectors and those forming general or useful libraries, supplied on moderate terms.—Victor Marsh, 389, Brixton Road, London

FOR Sale, 1,000 Argentine Stamps; all current used; only one lot; 2s. 6d.—Albert E. Coupe, 18, Braithwaite Street, North Shore, Blackpool.

MEMBERS of the Fylde Stamp Exchange Club are requested to note that Albert E. Coupe, owing to extreme pressure of business, has handed over the management to Mr. S. P. Walters, of 58, Osborne Road, Blackpool, S.S., where all communications relating to the Club must be sent. Thanking the members for their kind support, and trusting that the favour will be extended to Mr. S. P. Walters.

TO ADVERTISERS.

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